

A PROJECT OF
ASSOCIATION OF WRITERS AND ILLUSTRATORS
FOR CHILDREN (AWIC)
INDIA



AWIC Children's Library in rural Rajasthan

Introduction

AWIC Children's Library Project was launched on 9th April, 1983 by Late Mr. Shankar Pillai, founder of AWIC and Children's Book Trust. Initially, nine libraries were started by the members in their homes in Delhi. After sometimes, some members of AWIC started libraries in different cities of India where they lived. In 1988, AWIC Library Project extended its services to rural area as well. The aim of AWIC Children's Library Project is to make books available to children within their easy reach.

India has a population of more than one billion and children below 16 form 40 per cent of the total population. They will be reading books in 22 languages (recognized by Government of India) and in 1652 dialects of India.

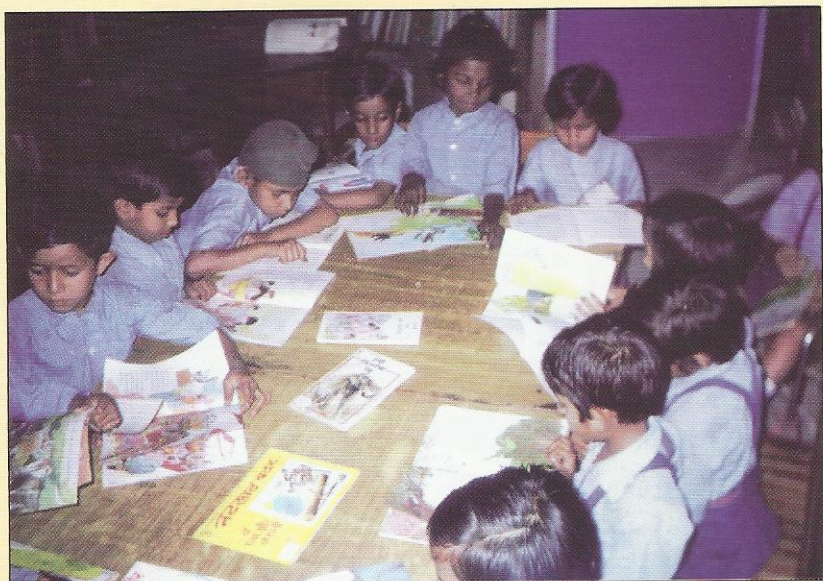
The Association of Writers and Illustrators for Children (AWIC) is a voluntary organization and is involved in many activities. One of the important activities is to inculcate reading habit in children.

How it started

Some of AWIC members donated books and also collected books from their friends.

On AWIC's request many publishers gave maximum discount on purchase of books. In this way, about 2000 titles were collected. Books were accessed and stored in the central office of AWIC.

A library kit, consisting of a bag containing 150 to 200 titles, was given to volunteers who came to start libraries in their homes. The bag also contained a display board, one register, handouts for distribution and the membership application forms for young readers.

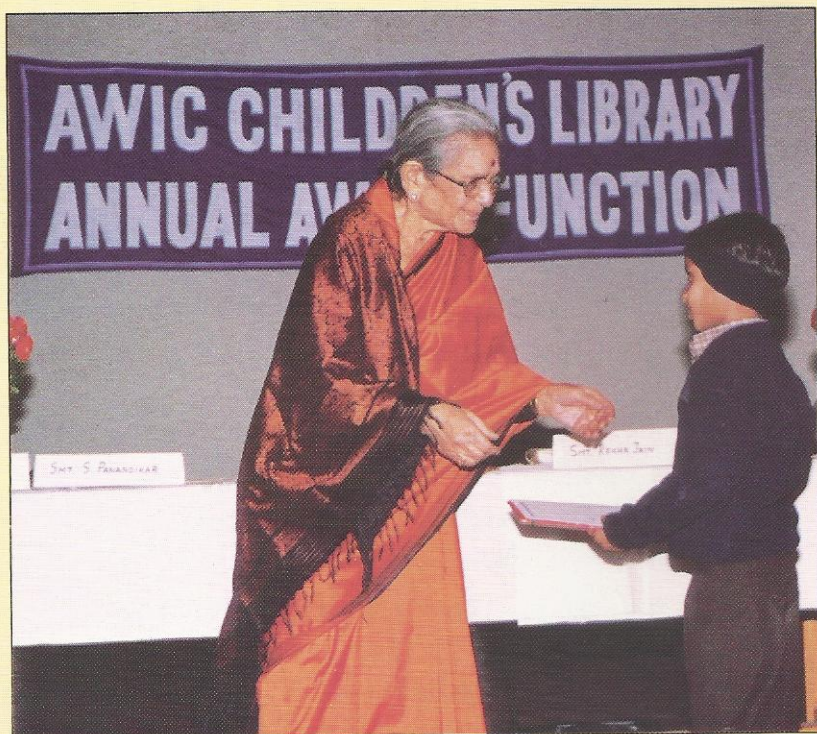


Young readers in one of the AWIC Children's Library in urban slums

How AWIC Children's Library Works

The Central Office of AWIC library opens four times a month for exchange of titles.

The librarian works on voluntary basis. He / She has to open the library twice a week for at least two hours each day.



Chief Guest Mrs. Rekha Jain giving away 'reader of the year' award

A nominal fee of Rs.5/- (about 10 US cents) per month is charged from a child who wishes to become a library member. No fee is charged from the children belonging to economically disadvantaged families. The membership money is deposited with the Central Office to buy more titles.

Different competitions like book review, role-playing and quizzes are organised for the young readers in the libraries. These competitions reveal what kind of books children enjoy reading and give us a good feedback.

Out station Libraries

To start a library out side Delhi, the Association provides 100 titles and charges Rs. 300/- for providing the display boards, bookmarks, handouts and a bag.

AWIC also helps the librarian to purchase books from the publishers at a maximum discount.

Activities

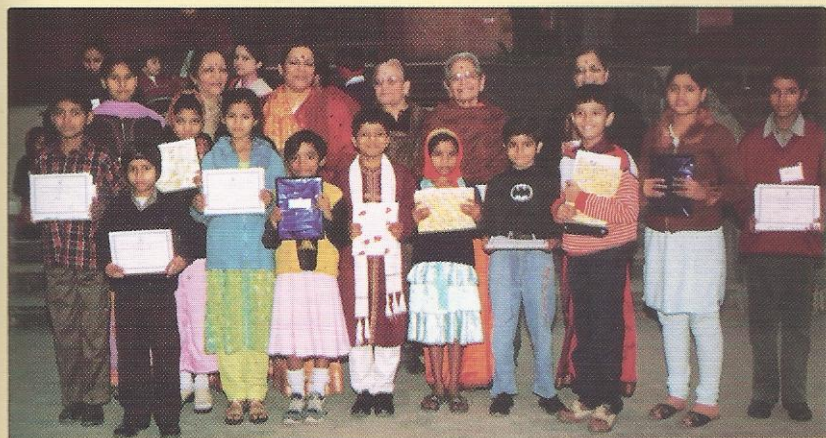
The librarian, with the help to AWIC members, organises activities to attract children and motivate them to read. These activities are:

- * Storytelling by children and adults
- * Quiz programmes connected with books
- * Story painting , Story acting
- * Meet the author and the illustrator session
- * Book Talk
- * Display of books
- * Celebration of National Book Week
- * Puppet and mask making

Young readers from these libraries also become members of the jury for **Children's Choice Award** (biennial) organised by AWIC.

Who can start an AWIC Children's Library?

Anyone who is a life member of AWIC can start an AWIC Children's Library.



Readers of the year awardees with the chief guest Mrs. Rekha Jain



Children role playing popular characters from a story

AWIC Library Movement

AWIC organises workshops to motivate and train potential librarians. To encourage these librarians, AWIC has instituted an award '**Librarian of the Year**' which is given to the best librarian.

AWIC also gives '**Reader of the Year**' prizes. One young reader from each library, recommended by the librarian, is awarded the prize.

Future Plans

Considering the tremendous potential for expansion and the need to provide books to children, AWIC proposes to cover the following areas:

- * Villages
- * City slums
- * Children's wards in hospitals
- * Children-parks
- * Remand Homes
- * Orphanages

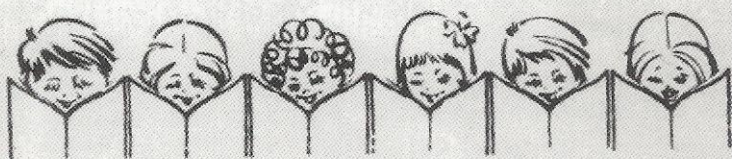
AWIC has the organisational capacity and management talent to carry through these projects. AWIC Children's Library Project is helping to eradicate illiteracy by creating a desire to read and write. The dedicated members of AWIC aim to make millions of Indian children happy by bringing good books within their reach through libraries.

Association of Writers and Illustrators for Children

AWIC

CHILDREN'S LIBRARY

बाल पुस्तकालय



AWIC CHILDREN'S LIBRARY PROJECT

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